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~~Top Secret~~
[REDACTED]

POLAND: Demonstrators Clash With Police

Hardliners in the regime will demand tougher measures to prevent future demonstrations, but greater repression will lead to increased resistance. [REDACTED]

Police, using tear gas and clubs, yesterday dispersed a crowd of 15,000 to 25,000 youthful demonstrators in the most violent clash since the early days of martial law. [REDACTED] witnessed several severe beatings. The authorities have reported incidents in Krakow, Gdansk, and elsewhere and have threatened to reinstitute the curfew, lifted on Sunday. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] recently noted a decline in social discipline, including increased sabotage and leaflet activity, falling attendance at party meetings, and increased belligerence among some workers toward party members. [REDACTED] reflect new alarm about the attitude among some young people. [REDACTED]

Comment: The recent demonstrations are clear evidence of the increasing willingness of young Poles to challenge the regime openly. They suggest that widespread violence may yet erupt. [REDACTED]

Solidarity activists probably hope that such demonstrations will eventually force the regime to make concessions. They may exploit VE Day celebrations this weekend or use the beginning of the sixth month of martial law on 13 May to foment new agitation. [REDACTED]

The control of demonstrations is more difficult for the government because many are associated with Church events. Moderates in the regime are mindful that they need the calming influence of the Church. Hardliners probably favor a tougher position toward the Church, but that would only provoke more anger. [REDACTED]

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462